



HIAS 1994 Annual Report

The HIAS Mission

The primary mission of HIAS is to assist Jews whose lives and freedom are endangered. This mission is derived from the teaching *Kol Yisrael Arevim Ze ba Ze*, (all Jews are responsible, one for the other), and is consistent with the Rabbinical imperative of *Pidyyon Sh'vuyyim* (redemption of the captive). Since 1880, HIAS has been the worldwide arm of the American Jewish community for the rescue, relocation, family reunification and resettlement of refugees and other migrants. HIAS works closely in resettlement of and advocacy for refugees and migrants with a network of Jewish and non-Jewish agencies across the nation, Israel and throughout the world. In carrying out its mission, HIAS has these goals:

To assist threatened Jews and others to escape from places of persecution and danger and to relocate in safe havens of their choice;

To ensure the provision of resettlement assistance to refugees and migrants (both Jewish and others) through cooperation with a network of resettlement and social service agencies throughout the United States;

To maintain HIAS's concern for refugees and migrants in their post-migration period, acting primarily through the network of resettlement and social service agencies across the United States;

To continue our cooperation in efforts to rescue Jews who choose to resettle in the State of Israel;

To advocate for the needs of Jewish refugees and migrants at the international, national and community levels;

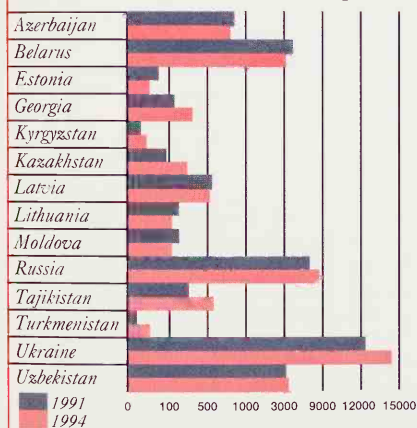
To mobilize the resources HIAS needs to carry out its mission by seeking support from the American Jewish community, the United States government, its members and other contributors; *and*

To maintain the status of HIAS as a qualified and responsible nonprofit organization, operating through the efforts of its volunteer board and professional staff.



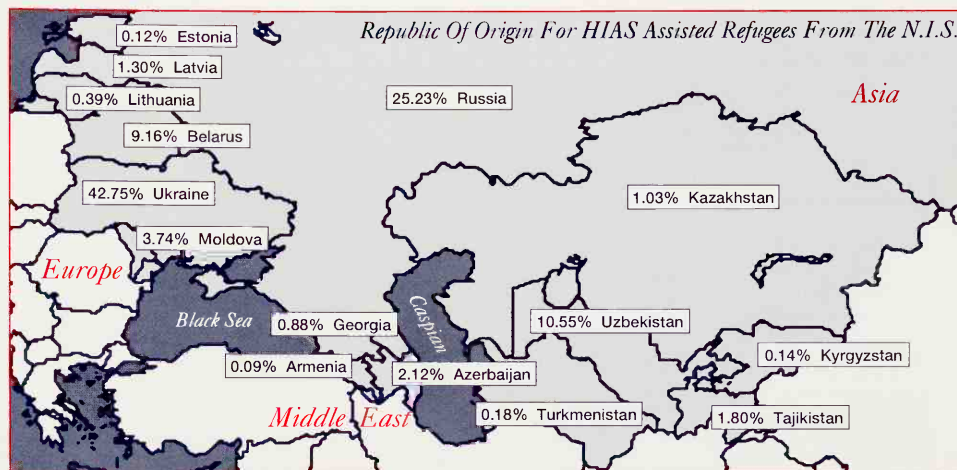
REPUBLIC	FY '94 Arrivals	FY '94 Percent	FY '93 Percent	NET Change
Armenia	39	0.09	0.11	-22.22%
Azerbaijan	735	2.12	3.04	-48.11%
Belarus	3,125	9.16	8.76	+04.37%
Estonia	41	0.12	0.32	-166.67%
Georgia	303	0.88	1.05	-19.32%
Kazakhstan	352	1.03	0.79	+23.30%
Kyrgyzstan	51	0.14	0.21	-50.00%
Latvia	444	1.30	2.00	-53.85%
Lithuania	136	0.39	0.57	-41.03%
Moldova	1,277	3.74	6.94	-85.56%
Russia	8,599	25.23	23.81	+05.63%
Tajikistan	615	1.80	2.40	-33.33%
Turkmenistan	63	0.18	0.11	+38.89%
Ukraine	14,571	42.75	36.18	+15.37%
Uzbekistan	3,596	10.55	13.38	-26.82%
Unknown	148	0.43	0.23	+46.51%

Assisted Migrants By Area Origin

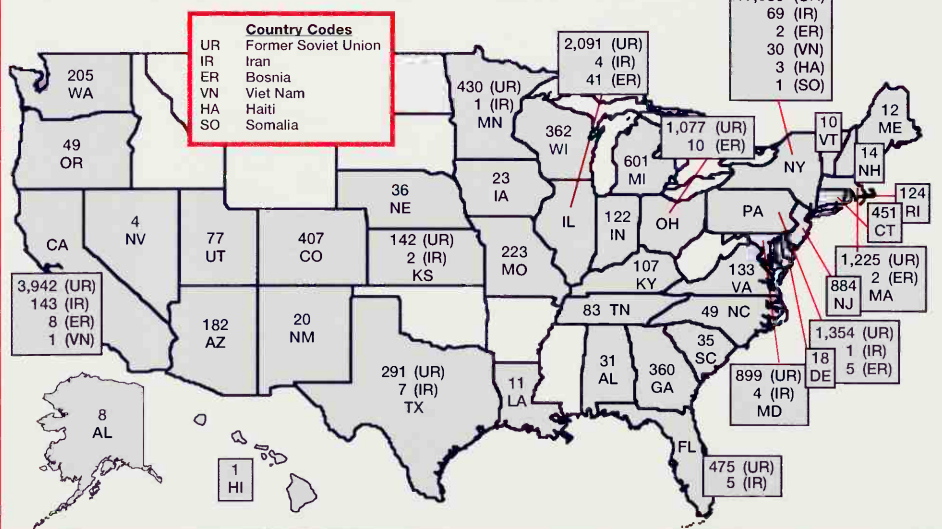


HIAS-Assisted Migrants
By Nationality (FY 1994)

N.I.S.	34,046
Iran	234
Bosnia	81
Vietnam	31
Haiti	3
Somalia	1



Initial Resettlement Of HIAS Assisted Refugees By State (FY 1994)





The Winds of Change

It is hard to believe that 115 years have passed since HIAS first came into existence. Even more remarkable is the fact that our mission and our message have remained essentially the same throughout the decades of our existence. Our mission statement today bears a striking resemblance to the one drafted by HIAS over a century ago:

"HIAS instills in its clients a true patriotism and love for their adopted country and makes better known to the people of the United States the many advantages of legal immigration."

1994 was a memorable year, laden with HIAS activity and involvement at every level, from the executive committee and staff to the Jewish American public and beyond.

Ever looking ahead to the future, HIAS took the initiative to create a strategic plan. This monumental task was the work of 14 members of the Strategic Planning Committee, who met regularly to hammer out the fine details of a work plan that will take us to the year 2000. In addition to the core members of this committee, more than 60 board members contributed their comments via a mail survey distributed by the committee.

As the year wrapped up, concerns were turned toward Washington. The November elections reflected the first time in 40 years — since the Truman administration — that a Democratic President faced a Republican

Congress. In recognizing the new environment on the Hill, HIAS remained committed to its work on behalf of those in danger, ensuring that the refugee program will continue to serve Jews, and others, in need.

HIAS initiated its national Citizenship Project in 1994, expanding the program from its local base in New York City to communities across the country. HIAS provided the local Jewish Family Service agencies with support to alert applicants to naturalization requirements and procedures.

Our desire to communicate directly with the emigre community nationwide resulted in a partnership between HIAS and AT&T. Together, we have brought to the airwaves "HIAS and AT&T Answer," a half-hour, weekly television show produced by the Russian-American Broadcasting Company. The effect on the tens of thousands of viewers has been felt by the HIAS Correspondence Unit, which fielded 9,000 phone calls regarding the program during 1994.

Representatives sent by HIAS to monitor country conditions in the Newly Independent States (NIS) of the former Soviet Union during 1994 returned with dismal news. Reports pointed to the evident vulnerability of Jews amidst a decline in the economy, political instability, a growing jobless rate, and the rise in ultra-nationalism and anti-Semitism.



Martin Kesselhaut
President



Martin A. Wenick
Executive Vice President

HIAS undertook the task of creating a National Corporate Initiative. HIAS acts as the broker between major corporations and Jewish communities around the country in matching up a potential emigre labor force with suitable employment and training programs. In 1994, as the program gathered steam, a number of large businesses were approached and responded favorably.

In March, members of HIAS's board of directors participated in the first-ever Leadership Mission to Washington. Activities included presentations by a Department of State expert on refugee affairs, a reception on Capitol Hill with Congress members and their staffs, policy briefings, and a special tour of the Holocaust Museum.

HIAS presented Rep. Hamilton Fish, Jr. with the 1994 Liberty Award in recognition of his substantial contribution to free Soviet Jewry and his efforts in support of an enlightened immigration policy. Benjamin and Vladka Meed received the first annual Harold Friedman Memorial Award, which commemorated the Meeds' accomplishments as former refugees who have achieved international prominence through their work with the American Gathering/Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors. The Council of Jewish Federations (CJF) received the Zvi Hirsch Masliansky Award, given in recognition of their central role in domestic refugee resettlement.

Immediately prior to the Council of Jewish Federation's General Assembly, which was held last November in Denver, HIAS co-hosted a two-day National Leadership Conference on Immigration and Resettlement. It was co-sponsored by the CJF, National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies and the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. Seventy-five participants from 34 communities in the United States and Canada attended the sessions. Several key political and Jewish communal leaders from the realm of immigration and resettlement came to hear and be heard.

Looking toward 1995, the challenges of anti-immigrant sentiment, anti-Semitism, racism and a troubled economy continue to mount. As we take a deep breath and prepare for the work ahead, HIAS has the satisfaction of knowing that it has contributed to the richness of this nation by helping create a new emigre community, filled with hope and potential. May we live to see this community flourish in America.

Martin Kesselhaut,
President

Martin A. Wenick,
Executive Vice-President





What Price Miracles?

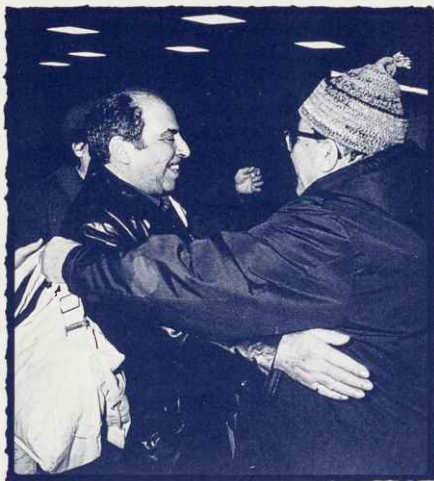
The Talmud is very clear on the religious duty of redeeming the captives and that it takes precedence over almost every other communal activity. Maimonides tells us there is no religious duty as great as redemption of the captives. If we are to achieve the objectives of Jewish continuity — intergenerational transmission of Jewish identity, values and religion — then we must be realistic enough to know that young people don't accept us simply "talking the talk." We must "walk the walk."

Last November's General Assembly of the Council of Federations, the largest annual gathering focusing on our shared values of *tzedaka* and those acts of loving kindness that nurture and sustain Jewish communities, included a session titled "Can We Afford to Continue Refugee Resettlement? Can We Afford Not To?"

As a panelist, I was able to comment on some current realities as well as those imperatives that suggest the need to re-energize our efforts for *aliyah* to Israel and resettlement of relatives in the United States to reunify families.

In Russia, the Jews are blamed for unemployment and food shortages. The Russian Legion and other patriotic groups espouse Russia for Russians and protest the liberalization policies of "Baruch" Yeltsin. In Tashkent, Islamic fundamentalist groups have called for the deportation of Jews. In Baku, Iranian television programs broadcast anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist propaganda

including a call for a "jihad against our main enemies — the Jews."



Here in the United States, as Congress struggles with the details of what are sure to be massive budget cuts in social services, state and local governments grow more apprehensive. States and municipalities have their own share of fiscal woes, and as federal funding disappears, the impact on many community programs will be catastrophic. Traditionally, federal, state and local agencies have served as a safety net for the needy, including those in the Jewish community,

offering the vital services that cannot be funded by the community's voluntary gifts. That safety net is shrinking. There is no place in Jewish life for compassion fatigue. We cannot think that the miracle of our time can be left to others.

As a society we have a shorter and shorter attention span, and while the miracle of moving a million or more Jews may not take 40 years, as in biblical times, it cannot be accomplished in the length of time of an MTV video or a channel surfer's level of patience.

The removal of so many of the emotional hot buttons that inspired participation and giving caused Jewish organizations to indulge in extensive soul searching. Many concluded that Jewish continuity had become the priority issue in the community, and some elevated the issue to an emergency status. The truth is, of course, that continuity has long been a perplexing problem for the American Jewish community, and remains so today. Assimilation and acceptance have eroded the need to maintain a strong Jewish identity, and young people have become apathetic or indifferent to their culture, their traditions and their heritage. While we may rejoice that so many have discovered the problem, it is more important that we focus on solutions.

In my view, all the words in the world will have little effect. We must lead by example. And HIAS, which has accomplished so much in recent years must now re-energize

itself to meet today's needs. When we do so, our achievements will serve as an inspiration for young people searching for substance and meaning in their Jewishness.

In April, 1992, President Assad of Syria, in an attempt to win the friendship of President Bush, announced that Syrian Jews would no longer be treated differently from other citizens. They could travel, leave the country freely, not have family members held as hostages while they were gone. We saw a window of opportunity, and we moved quickly. Ten days later, 41 Syrian tourists arrived in New York. In seven months, 2,600 Syrian Jews were in the United States, and a thousand more were subsequently brought out. By the time Assad decided that he had been overly generous, some 3,600 of the country's 4,000 Jews had escaped. Almost to a person, those who came to the United States have found jobs and established roots. Can there be a better example of preserving Jewish continuity?

The small miracle in Syria occasioned little excitement, perhaps because it was overshadowed by the larger miracles we performed in Eastern Europe, in Ethiopia, in Iran. We've been in the miracle business for a long time now. If identity and continuity are in any way related to pride and self-esteem, Jewish youngsters ought to be hearing about the work of HIAS.

Twenty years ago, when few gave it a chance to succeed, we were investing a million dollars a year in a Soviet Jewish

advocacy movement. I wish I could say that the rest is history, but the truth is that it is an unfinished history. We must continue to work our miracles on behalf of the million and a half Jews who remain in the former Soviet Union. When one reads the HIAS reports of arriving refugees, we know that this is not an economic migration. These are people who fear for their lives. This is a redemption of captives.

While our attention is usually centered on Russia or the Ukraine, the number of refugees from other republics is increasing. This is especially true of the Islamic republics like Uzbekistan, where fundamentalists have called for the deportation of all Jews. Or Azerbaijan, which borders Iran, and receives television broadcasts calling for a jihad against the enemy, the Jews. We talk to these refugees, and we know we have no choice. We must persevere. At a recent campaign event for Russian emigres, I sat with a man who said, "I came to this country four years ago and in my first job I earned \$4.25 an hour. I just gave \$2,000 to help more people come over."

Letty Cottin Pogrebin, in a column that appeared in the *Jewish Week*, described President Clinton's trip to the Middle East to witness the signing of the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan. He was accompanied by an invited delegation of prominent American Jews, including Ms. Pogrebin. Among the entourage were the chairman of CBS, the governor of Rhode Island, a former

congresswoman from Ohio, the chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary and the publisher of the *New York Daily News* and *U.S. News and World Report*. All were immigrants, or the children or grandchildren of immigrants. And one of them noted that if yesterday's immigrants are today's Presidential guests, what might we expect of today's newcomers?

We can find a dozen reasons to rest on our laurels and bask in the glow of old victories. But we cannot turn away from those still left behind, those who yearn for freedom. Let us begin our next miracle.

Jeffrey R. Solomon
Chief Operating Officer, Program Services
UJA-Federation of New York



Soviet Jewry: New Challenges

When the Soviet Union disintegrated, the immediate reaction in the West was one of gleeful self-congratulation. Western logic assumed that Communism would automatically be replaced by democracy, that oppression would give way to a new concern for human rights, and that hostility toward Soviet Jews would either vanish or diminish dramatically. None of these assumptions proved to be true. As a result, we must conclude that emigration of Soviet Jews is likely to continue and that Jews who choose to remain in the Newly Independent States (NIS) will require material and psychological support.

The old Soviet Union, monolithic and authoritarian, was at least predictable. That surely cannot be said of the states of the NIS, as they attempt to re-invent themselves. They are strangers to the concepts of independence and democracy, unable to comprehend quickly the mysteries of a market economy, uncertain of their ability to deal with the political instability that characterizes their changing status. Moreover, the new states are a crazy quilt of races, religions, languages and cultures. No longer dampened by the superficial unity imposed by a central government, old antagonisms have re-surfaced, old disputes have been revived. In this context, the unrest in Georgia and the warfare in Chechnya seem almost inevitable.

It appears likely that the foreseeable future will be one of prolonged economic

crisis, social unrest, ethnic tension and even wars and what I would call cultural confusion. The fabric of many of these societies has unraveled in a few instances. In all instances, it has been badly frayed. And in some it has come apart at the seams. But while there is no way to predict accurately the extent or intensity of these problems, we can say with certainty that the virulent anti-Semitism that has been part of the social fabric for centuries will become more open and blatant. The new nationalism, now so evident in many of the new states, has served as a substitute for developing meaningful political institutions, and carries with it the traditional need for scapegoating — and in that part of the world, Jews are typically cast as the villainous perpetrators of failure and disaster.



Photo by Dail Stalov



Photo by David Stolov

While anti-Semitism is no longer an instrument of official government policy, government efforts to eradicate it are either half-hearted or non-existent. At the same time, it should be noted, Jewish organizations, educational institutions and religious communities continue to grow in number, with little overt interference from officialdom. Life in the NIS is not without its ironies.

One does not have to venture far or search hard for evidence of anti-Semitism. In St. Petersburg, that perennial favorite of the haters, *The Protocols of The Elders of Zion* is sold everywhere by street vendors. In a central square of Moscow, opposite the Bolshoi Theater and only a few steps from the Kremlin, there are a number of stands

offering a large selection of vicious anti-Semitic literature. The same stands sell tapes of Nazi SS marching songs.

There has been no shortage of candidates for the highest offices of the new states, but four years after independence there remains a leadership void. That even Yeltsin, known and respected abroad, is unable to solve quickly the terrible problems that confront the people — rampant inflation, escalating crime, food shortages, deplorable medical services — serves only to deepen cynicism and distrust. In such an atmosphere we cannot be surprised at the emergence of a Zhirinovskiy, or others like him.



Photo by Yusef Drescher

We may not want to take Zhirinovskiy seriously, but it is not difficult to imagine the circumstances that could propel him to the presidency of Russia, or the dire consequences of such an event. The cultural and moral crisis engenders a feeling which I believe is a dangerous compound of



Photo by Yusefa Drescher

humiliation and confusion. There's a sense of shame today in being a Russian or Ukrainian, which is overcompensated for by nationalists. It is precisely at a time when one feels humiliated, when one realizes that their country is a pauper country, a third-world country that is no longer a super power, that one must overcompensate and assert to greatness the virtuosity and genius of one's people. And yet, in the midst of the chaos and hostility, we have witnessed the regeneration of Jewish life in the former Soviet Union. We see Jewish day schools, Jewish Sunday schools and Jewish universities. Jewish organizations have formed, and Jewish publications are circulating widely. While we should not view all this as some sort of Jewish renaissance sweeping the republics, the fact is that Jewish life has come out into the open, and — in the sunlight of its new freedom — has taken root again.

This emigration will continue for one very prosaic and simple reason. Even leaving aside all the political and economic pushes, and whatever pulls may exist in the United States, emigration will continue, because there is a critical mass of friends and family members already in the United States and Israel. That is what pulled many of us, our parents and grandparents, to this country.

For more than a century, HIAS has been the embodiment of Jewish values, reaching out to people at risk, people in need, people seeking solace and support. Our people. Time and conditions have changed in the Soviet world, but the challenge remains.

*By Zvi Gitelman, Professor of Political Science and
Preston R. Tisch, Professor of Judaic Studies
University of Michigan*



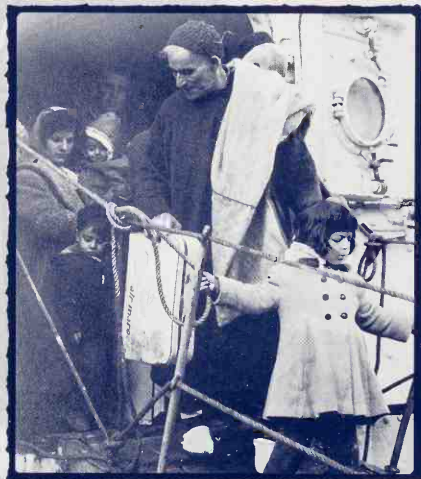
The Early Years: 1880 into the Turn of the Century

(excerpted from *Visas to Freedom: The History of HIAS, 1956*,
The World Publishing Company, New York, by Mark Wischnitzer)

The pogrom that raged in Kishinev from April 6 to 8, 1903, shocked the entire world. When the London *Times* published reports indicating that the Russian authorities had taken a hand in instigating the pogrom, indignation in the United States knew no bounds. It was the signal for a great wave of emigration. A total of 37,846 Jews left Russia for the United States in 1902; 47,689 in 1903; and 77,544 in 1904.



In the period of 1909 to 1914 HIAS grew from a modest welfare society in New York to a national organization with branches in Baltimore, Boston and Philadelphia, an office in Washington, national directors in several hundred cities, a countrywide membership and affiliations outside the United States.



There was a huge influx of the years 1904-8, occasioned in large part by the 1903 Kishinev and 1905 October pogroms, when more than 100,000 Jewish immigrants arrived annually...

...With the worsening of conditions for European Jews, immigration again began to mount, rising to 84,260 in 1910 and reaching a high of 138,051 in 1914. Never again were so many Jewish immigrants to enter the United States in a single year.

The First Annual Meeting of HIAS

The first annual meeting of the amalgamated Hebrew Sheltering House Association was held at the Hotel New York, New York City.

Association and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society — or HIAS, as it was by then known — took place on January 21, 1910. The report of the shelter revealed that the old Jewish tradition of indiscriminate relief was still unbroken in the organization.

"We pride ourselves," HIAS's president, Judge Leon Sanders, pointed out, "that there is no Jewish bread line in the city of New York."

Editorial from Der Yiddisher Immigrant, the HIAS bi-lingual monthly

January, 1909:

"It may be said that before the advent of our monthly journal, HIAS was doing only half its work.





It was doing all that could be done to facilitate the landing of all such immigrants as are by law entitled to land, and befriend them when landed. But now, with the publication of the *Yiddisher Immigrant*, we are warning off all such as would not be legally allowed to land. That is practically what the Yiddish portion of the *Yiddisher Immigrant* is devoted to. It circulates largely in Russia, in the great emigration centers, where issue after issue since the first number is being most eagerly devoured."

"The Jewish masses who are now pouring into America are the most civilized element in the whole immigration. Not only do they represent an ancient highly moralized

civilization, but their acquaintance with Hebrew and Yiddish literature puts them on a far higher scale of literateness than the bulk of the immigration. The Russian Jews in particular have so great a capacity for idealism that it is almost their destruction in the world of practice (A reference to the Jewish rejection of Uganda, in favor of a Palestine homeland — at the time, the most remote of possibilities.) Such an idealistic element is just what latter-day America needs. Their language, Yiddish, has produced several masterpieces of literature, as anyone may convince himself by reading the work of Peretz, "Stories and Pictures," recently published in an excellent English translation..."

— Israel Zangwill, in a letter to Alexander Harkavy, 1906.



From the Diary of Clara Suess, HIAS Client

Born in Schweinfurt am Main in May, 1882, Clara Suess (nee Mars) lived with her husband, David, in Mannheim, Germany, until their forceful departure in 1941. The couple settled in Reading, Penn. Mrs. Suess died in New York City in 1968 at the age of 86. HIAS wishes to thank Mrs. Suess's daughter, Mrs. Erna Ettlinger, and her granddaughter, Judy Brown, for allowing us to excerpt the following portions of her diary.

Aboard the ship Navemare August 20, 1941

We left Lisbon on Saturday evening, August 16th, after having lain in the harbor for 10 days. We were not permitted to leave the ship in all these long days. And so we left Europe forever. A stifled cry in my throat wants to come to my eyes; oh, what unhappiness do I feel! But no, I cannot allow these feelings to overwhelm me. I don't want to waste my feelings on a country that exiled — yes, even killed — many of us. We were



made homeless within an hour, and for almost 11 months we were The Wandering Jews.



...We were notified on May 16th that our permit to emigrate to America was ready for us. Our children paid our passage to America to the HIAS. It became the task to find a boat that would bring us to America. It was no small task, that, since the ever-widening war made ocean passages most difficult. My husband was notified by the HIAS that they had made two bookings for us on the Navemare. They told us to be sure to get ready to leave Marseilles on July 1 or 2 so as to leave with the Navemare. It was scheduled to leave on July 10th from Cadiz, again. Once more, we became so excited to come that

close to our wish to come to America...

Near Hamilton, Bermuda August 30

A beautiful sky, azure blue, not a cloud to see...A few lucky ones amongst us leave the Navemare today to continue their trip to New York by plane. We, the majority, count on being on board ship for another two weeks yet. We were brought the *Hamilton News* on board. They printed a story describing the condition of the Navemare, that the boat was originally refurbished to house 400 passengers, and ended up with 1,200 instead.





They wrote how small the area was that was allotted for so many. They reported about the poor sanitary conditions, the poor food, and finally about four people who had died so far on this journey.

With all good intentions, little if anything can be helped, so we go on. It looks definite now that the trip continues via Cuba.



*U.S. coastal waters
September 8*

Heavy thoughts are bearing down on me. What will the future have in store for us? We used to be completely independent on ourselves and never knew of financial

difficulties. Will we be able to start a new life? We will certainly have to accept hardships. I know that our G-d will continue to stand by us. So, I finish this tale, with a happy excitement. Knowing that the tremendous joy to see our children and to see our grandchildren for the first time surpasses everything else.

September 12

(In English) We arrive in New York.



...To The Present

(Reprinted with the publisher's permission from No Words to Say Goodbye, Hyperion, 1994, New York, by former HIAS client Raimonda Kopelnitsky and Kelli Pryor)

March 14, 1990

Dear Kitty!

Late yesterday evening there was a

terrible knock on the door. It was the kind of feeling that someone is after you. How my heart was pounding. Out of fear my friend from next door, Boris, and I didn't ask who it is; we just opened the door. In walks a happy mama and she shouts out, "We got the guarantee!" My God, were we happy. We'll forget these five or six months in a week or two, and then we'll be in New York.

God, how we celebrated! My future is awaiting me. My family is terrified at times. But we're like all Jews who emigrate to America. Kitty, congratulations! America is waiting for us!

Love, Raimonda



1994: An Overview

As 1994 came to an end, HIAS looked back upon a year of world-wide tragedies, turmoil in the Newly Independent States (NIS) of the former Soviet Union, and growing political and social uncertainty at home.

A record number of bias crimes and overt acts of anti-Semitism were reported by the Anti-Defamation League in the United States, and membership in hate and extremist organizations was on the rise. General discontent and economic insecurity in this country led to the spread of anti-immigrant sentiment, which resulted in controversial legislation excluding legal aliens from dozens of social programs.



The NIS experienced mounting tension and political instability as the economy continued its downward spiral. These factors, along with the consolidation of ultra-nationalist and fascist groups, became of major concern to the Jewish population. Although an earlier temporary decrease in the

Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) interview rate in Moscow began to affect the number of refugee arrivals in the United States late in the year, more than 30,000 Jewish refugees, fleeing persecution, were assisted by HIAS.

HIAS worked harder than ever to stress the urgency of moving their clients out of the NIS expeditiously; of seeking U.S. citizenship for those eligible; and of urging those already here to enter the work force.

In 1994 HIAS experienced two noteworthy firsts: the first time that HIAS executive committee members were elected in accordance with a recently forged HIAS/Council of Jewish Federations (CJF) agreement, which brought administrative control of the Voluntary Agency Matching Grant Program to HIAS, and the first time that HIAS participated in the National Funding Council budgeting process, centralizing the source of Jewish communal dollars earmarked for HIAS.

Migration and Resettlement: International and National Activities

Refugee Reception and Resettlement. During 1994, HIAS sponsored 32,856 Jewish refugees from the NIS. In addition, HIAS resettled 278 refugees from Iran and 91 from Bosnia. HIAS also assisted 57 people from other nations, including individuals from Vietnam, Haiti and Somalia.

Matching Grant Joins HIAS. On January 1, 1994, the Refugee Resettlement

Department of CJF, which administered the Voluntary Agency Matching Grant Program, was fully transferred to HIAS. This transfer completed a process begun the previous year, when the leadership of HIAS and CJF determined that both federally funded resettlement programs should be administered by this agency.



Working with the established network of Jewish federations, family services and vocational agencies that have resettled 33,268 refugees through the Department of State's Reception and Placement Grant, 24,100 employable refugees were determined to be eligible for the Matching Grant Program. The vast majority were from the NIS, with 224 from Iran. HIAS was responsible for distributing more than \$40 million in federal funds under both federal programs, designated for funding resettlement in communities throughout the United States.

National Corporate Initiative. The HIAS Matching Grant Department launched



the National Corporate Initiative, an effort to identify companies that will commit to market the hiring of former Soviet refugees to their local operations across the country. While HIAS will work with the national headquarters of these companies to reach such an agreement, the contacts leading to employment offers will directly involve the corporation's local operation and the appropriate HIAS affiliate.

Public Policy: The HIAS Response.



The November elections created a flurry of concern among the network of voluntary agencies involved in the refugee program. It was the first time in 40 years that a

Democratic President faced a Republican Congress. Frequent meetings were convened to discuss the implications of proposed legislation that would deny legal immigrants access to the benefits of over 35 social programs.

HIAS actively participated in the challenges of California's Proposition 187, asylum and welfare reform proposals from the 103rd Congress and the Commission on Immigration Reform, renewal of the Lautenberg Amendment, and the U.S. policy on Haitians and Cubans in Guantanamo Bay.

Overseas Operations. World-wide turmoil, tragedies and crises produced a record number of refugees in 1994. While the major focus of organizational activities was assistance to the former Soviet Jewish refugees, HIAS also assisted with the processing and sponsorship of refugees from Bosnia, Vietnam, Haiti, Somalia and Iran.

Severe economic instability, evidenced by widespread inflation, rising unemployment and deteriorating social conditions, as well as the growth of ultra-nationalistic forces in many parts of the NIS, added to the vulnerability of Jews who remained there in 1994, according to HIAS site reports based on visits to numerous cities in Ukraine, Russia and Belarus, and meetings with HIAS and government officials there.

The rise of extreme nationalism reflected in numerous political parties with xenophobic tendencies gave Jews and other ethnic minorities cause for concern. While

"state-sponsored" anti-Semitism has virtually diminished, the expression of "popular" anti-Semitism was clearly evident.

HIAS's responsibilities to the U.S. Government; monitoring the processing of refugees on site and the conditions with which they live; as well as advocacy on behalf of HIAS clients in the U.S. Refugee Program have dramatically increased during the last year. In order to assist with these obligations, HIAS retained a representative for Russia and the NIS.



Outreach to Jewish Communal Agencies and The American Jewish Community

Resettlement Conference. Refugee employment figured prominently in the HIAS National Refugee Resettlement Professionals Conference, held in Rockville, Md., in October.

Sponsored by the HIAS Matching Grant and Field Services Departments, and co-sponsored by the Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies (AJFCA) and the International Association of Jewish Vocational Services, the event brought together more than 200 resettlement coordinators and staff from over 80 cities for four days of training.

Pre-GA Leadership Conference. In November, immediately prior to the CJF General Assembly in Denver, Colo., HIAS hosted a two-day National Leadership Conference on Immigration and Resettlement, co-sponsored by CJF, National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, AJFCA and the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. Seventy-five participants from 34 communities in the United States and Canada listened to guest speakers Tim Wirth, Undersecretary of State for Global Affairs, and a former Colorado senator; Susan Forbes Martin, executive director of the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform; Congressman Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.); and a number of high-profile immigration and resettlement experts and Jewish communal leaders.

Citizenship Project. The HIAS Citizenship Project was launched, giving professional training seminars and naturalization workshops in communities across the country. Providing the local affiliates with HIAS staff and specially designed training and promotional materials, HIAS conducted

technical assistance for volunteers and professionals. They were guided through naturalization requirements, procedures and the N-400 application process. Emigres completed the naturalization applications and were also photographed and fingerprinted according to INS specifications.

Baron de Hirsch Program. With the ongoing assistance of the Baron de Hirsch Fund, HIAS was able to continue to address several critical areas of service to the emigre community and resettlement professionals. Once again, through regional seminars HIAS continued to facilitate the upgrading of resettlement skills among professionals in the network of HIAS's affiliated agencies. The latest information regarding refugee processing, overseas conditions and the current immigration environment was disseminated by HIAS staff to the field during these workshops. The needs of the emigre community were accommodated by the very successful evening meetings where emigres were given the opportunity to consult with HIAS experts about their own refugee and immigration needs, and those of their relatives destined for resettlement in the U.S.

The HIAS Scholarship Program. Forty-nine scholarships were granted to new Americans whose families had been assisted by HIAS. Forty-eight of the \$1,000 scholarships went to young people who had escaped the NIS to resettle in the United States through HIAS, and one to an individual who

had fled Vietnam and was aided by HIAS. Twenty-four Russian and Ethiopian *olim* — new immigrants to Israel — also received cash awards.



HIAS Speakers Bureau. The HIAS Speakers Bureau was re-energized, and participants brought the HIAS message to a wide audience.

Awards Dinner. HIAS presented Rep. Hamilton Fish, Jr (R-N.Y.) with the 1994 Liberty Award in recognition of his tireless, decades-long commitment to advocacy on behalf of open immigration for Soviet Jewry and others. HIAS also honored CJF with the Zvi Hirsch Masliansky Award in recognition of the organization's significant humanitarian services to refugees, migrants and others forced to flee persecution in their homelands. Benjamin and Vladka Meed received the first annual Harold Friedman Memorial Award, which commemorated the Meeds'



accomplishments as former refugees who have achieved international prominence through their work with the American Gathering/Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors.



Board Mission to Washington. The HIAS board of directors participated in the agency's first-ever Mission to Washington in March. They were given the opportunity to speak with influential members of Congress and top level government officials to discuss the future of refugees and immigrants in the United States. Highlights included presentations by a Department of State expert on refugee affairs, a reception on Capitol Hill, policy briefings, discussions with Congress members and staffs, and a specially arranged tour of the Washington Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Publications and Outreach. *The HIAS Guide to U.S. Citizenship* was completed in 1994. Due to overwhelming requests for the English/Russian publication, 30,000 copies

had been prepared for distribution by year's end. Two other major books, *Entering a New Culture* and *The Jewish World*, were updated, re-edited and distributed to 20,000 recent emigre families. New brochures were created and distributed to recent immigrants and their families members who are still in the NIS, and to the network of refugee resettlement agencies. A series of brochures, developed at the onset of Moscow processing and with support from the Baron de Hirsch Fund, were updated and reissued. This set of informational and instructional materials was distributed both in the U.S. and overseas for those seeking entrance to the U.S. as refugees from the NIS.

HIAS also publishes an immigration column in a nationally circulated Russian-language newspaper. With corporate sponsorship by AT&T, HIAS produced a highly popular, weekly Russian-language television show that continues to air in some 20 markets around the nation.



Assisted Migrants By Area Of Origin

(All Figures Are For Calendar Year)

Year	Former USSR	Other Eastern Europe	Iran	Egypt	North Africa	Latin America	Other Jewish	Other Non-Jewish*	Total
1954-69	406	53,443	-	15,274	38,467	5,632	4,213	-	117,435
1970	135	4,815	-	373	699	154	201	-	6,377
1971	265	1,563	-	203	526	258	359	-	3,174
1972	540	760	-	76	577	80	672	117	2,822
1973	1,773	705	-	21	943	140	185	81	3,848
1974	4,110	510	-	21	1,288	225	311	21	6,486
1975	6,676	306	-	27	669	22	83	3,522	11,305
1976	6,570	438	-	22	307	90	239	325	7,991
1977	7,985	266	-	8	205	56	155	51	8,726
1978	13,545	203	-	3	172	10	68	930	14,931
1979	31,931	136	-	6	181	10	860	3,889	37,013
1980	18,631	215	-	-	248	-	474	7,952	27,520
1981	8,137	276	-	-	289	-	248	3,909	12,859
1982	1,518	228	-	3	185	25	168	1,615	3,742
1983	1,024	220	227	-	101	29	14	1,416	3,031
1984	522	159	375	-	62	19	9	1,430	2,576
1985	621	122	620	-	70	11	12	1,332	2,788
1986	698	97	844	-	80	-	31	836	2,586
1987	3,989	85	2,581	-	87	-	45	514	7,301
1988	11,225	74	1,689	-	73	-	12	350	13,423
1989	38,395	137	1,736	-	55	-	12	373	40,708
1990	32,714	120	1,087	-	52	-	5	476	34,454
1991	35,568	85	537	-	26	-	3	220	36,439
1992	46,083	120	369	-	16	-	1	1,045	47,634
1993	35,934	89	196	-	14	-	20	308	36,561
1994	32,856	91	278	-	-	-	-	57	33,282
TOTALS	341,851	65,263	10,539	16,037	45,392	6,761	8,400	30,769	525,012

*Indochina: 26,576 Latin America: 3,056 Africa: 620 Asia: 495 Haiti: 22 Total: 30,769

Assisted Migrants By Area Of Destination

(All Figures Are For Calendar Year)

Year	U.S.A	Canada	Australia/ New Zealand	Latin America	Europe	Other	Total
1954-69	38,377	15,374	8,095	12,276	42,117	1,196	117,435
1970	2,045	580	104	202	3,446	-	6,377
1971	955	268	49	171	1,729	2	3,174
1972	1,050	301	44	86	1,341	-	2,822
1973	1,973	698	59	170	948	-	3,848
1974	3,886	1,236	142	361	861	-	6,486
1975	8,961	1,345	362	126	511	-	11,305
1976	6,186	909	338	128	430	-	7,991
1977	7,131	626	493	90	386	-	8,726
1978	13,349	585	603	69	325	-	14,931
1979	33,564	1,301	1,552	43	553	-	37,013
1980	23,996	2,113	1,027	39	345	-	27,520
1981	11,300	961	379	56	163	-	12,859
1982	3,231	300	99	26	86	-	3,742
1983	2,726	161	70	33	41	-	3,031
1984	2,416	74	29	16	41	-	2,576
1985	2,624	100	28	3	33	-	2,788
1986	2,395	137	23	-	31	-	2,586
1987	6,933	226	59	6	77	-	7,301
1988	12,600	383	318	-	122	-	13,423
1989	38,887	833	810	-	178	-	40,708
1990	32,873	825	634	-	122	-	34,454
1991	36,244	89	8	-	98	-	36,439
1992	47,483	94	-	-	57	-	47,634
1993	36,453	101	-	-	7	-	36,561
1994	33,268	5	-	-	9	-	33,282
TOTALS	410,906	29,625	15,325	13,901	54,057	1,198	525,012

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A listing of those who have signed a Letter of Intent will be included in the HIAS Annual Report.

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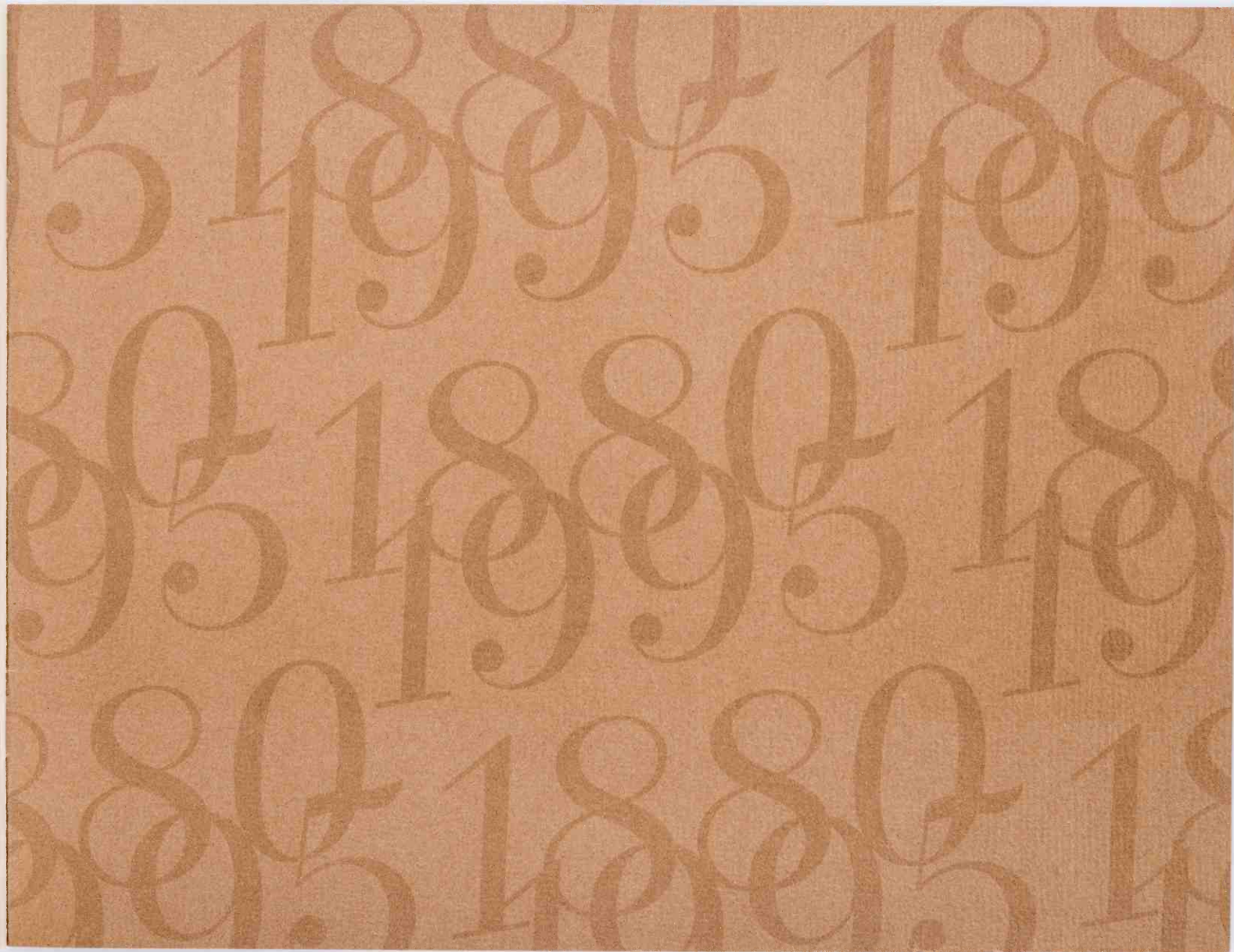
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